

Amendments to the Drawings:

Formal drawings are being provided concurrently with this amendment. Please substitute the drawings presently on file for the above-identified patent application with the drawings submitted herewith.

Attachment: Replacement Figures 1-5

REMARKS

Status of the Claims:

The Office Action dated February 22, 2007 has been received and reviewed by the applicant. Claims 1-8 are in the application. Claims 1-8 stand rejected. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 are amended, and claims 3, 4, and 5 are cancelled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections:

Claims 4 and 5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

a) Claim 4 states that the method for creating a message template includes the step of providing 74 bits as a capacity for the message for message template; however, this step is not disclosed in the specification.

b) Claim 5 states that the method for creating a message template includes the step of providing a 128 by 128 array as the message template; however, this step is not disclosed in the specification.

In response, claims 4 and 5 are canceled.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 112

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, claims 7 and 8 are amended.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Honsinger (US Patent 6,678,390). In response, claim 1 is amended to include “i) initializing a current configuration that *is randomly selected*; and ii) applying simulated annealing to the current configuration.” (emphasis added) See page 9, lines 28 - 32 for support. That is, the current configuration is randomly selected. In contrast, Honsinger teaches that the initial message pattern is a predetermined, sequential step-wise optimization. See column 2, line 50 where it states that “the locations indicated by the X’s in Fig. 1, are filled in a predetermined order so that the extraction algorithm knows where to look for the

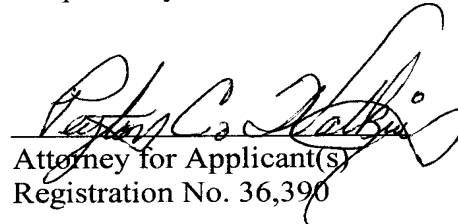
data.” Consequently, Honsinger does not teach the invention as now claimed. In addition, Honsinger teaches away from the claimed invention.

Summary

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.